
U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

Gordon P. Eaton, Director

Reston, VA 20192

For information, contact:

James F. Carlin, Jr., Antimony Specialist

Telephone: (703) 648-4985, Fax: (703) 648-7757

Elsie Isaac (Domestic data), (703) 648-7950

MINES-DATA: (703) 648-7799

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals>

ANTIMONY IN THE FIRST QUARTER 1997

Prices for most forms of antimony fluctuated somewhat the first quarter of 1997. The New York dealer price for antimony metal, published by Platt's Metals Week, was \$0.90 to \$0.95 per pound at the beginning of the quarter and \$1.05 to \$1.12 per pound at the end of the quarter.

The price of high-tint antimony trioxide, published by American Metal Market, started the quarter at \$1.60 to \$1.80 per pound and ended the quarter at \$1.30 to \$1.45 per pound.

The price for clean antimony sulfide concentrate, published by Metal Bulletin, started the quarter at \$19.00 to \$20.00 per metric ton unit and ended the quarter at \$18.50 to \$19.50 per metric ton unit. The price for lump antimony sulfide ore (60% antimony content) began the quarter at \$20.00 to \$21.00 per metric ton unit and finished the quarter at \$19.50 to \$20.50 per metric ton unit.

In Canada, Roycefield Resources Ltd. reported that it was on schedule with the development of its new antimony mine and mill in central Newfoundland, near Gander. Annual mine output

is expected to be about 4,500 metric tons of contained antimony, or 5% of world production. Roycefield officials expected that the mill would be operational by late summer, 1997. Mining and milling expenditures were estimated at about \$16 million, with an extra \$10 million being targeted to bring a new plant on stream to produce antimony trioxide. Executives explained that they were developing a new process to make antimony trioxide that would require pilot plant testing prior to commercial production. Roycefield's ore reserves are estimated at more than 1 million tons, grading 4.3% antimony. Officials projected a mine life of 13 years, with about 100,000 tons of ore being mined annually (Metal Bulletin, 1997).

References Cited

Metal Bulletin, 1997, Roycefield Mine on schedule: Metal Bulletin, no. 8170, April 17, p. 10.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

	1996		1997
	Total p/	Fourth quarter	First quarter
Production:			
Primary smelter 2/	25,700	6,990 r/	6,170
Secondary 3/	NA	NA	NA
Imports for consumption:	37,600	8,970	7,620 4/
Ore and concentrate	1,000	193	167 4/
Metal	18,300	4,760	3,250 4/
Oxide	18,300	4,020	4,200 4/
Exports:	5,270	1,130	811 4/
Metal, alloys and scrap	462	95	151 4/
Oxide 5/	4,810	1,030	660 4/
Consumption of primary antimony	13,100 r/	3,370 r/	3,040
Price: Average cents per pound 6/	146.58	108.90	100.71
Stocks end of period 7/	XX	11,200	11,200

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except prices.

2/ Nearly all smelter output is trioxide.

3/ Data under review.

4/ Data for January and February only.

5/ Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

6/ New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

7/ Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY IN THE
UNITED STATES 1/ 2/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Type of material	1996	1997
	Fourth quarter p/	First quarter
Metal	3,510 r/	4,270
Oxide	4,280 r/	3,570
Other 3/	3,360	3,340
Total	11,200 r/	11,200

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who held 96% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 1995.

3/ Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY 1/ 2/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	1996		1997
	Total p/	Fourth quarter r/	First quarter
Metal	1,990 r/	486	490
Oxide	11,100 r/	2,880	2,540
Other 3/	22	4	5
Total	13,100 r/	3,370	3,040

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 84% of the total antimony in 1995.

3/ Includes sulfide and residues.

TABLE 4
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF
MATERIAL PRODUCED 1/ 2/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	1996		1997
	Total p/ r/	Fourth quarter r/	First quarter
Metal products:			
Antimonial lead	1,140	288	246
Other 3/	1,160	277	332
Total metal products	2,300	565	579
Nonmetal products:			
Ceramics and glass	898	213	122
Other 4/	1,090	227	260
Total nonmetal products	1,990	440	382
Flame-retardants:			
Plastics	6,220	1,680	1,440
Other 5/	421	111	125
Total flame retardants	6,640	1,800	1,570
Total reported	10,900	2,800	2,530
Full industry totals 2/	13,100	3,370	3,040

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 84% of the total antimony in 1995.

3/ Includes ammunition, bearing metal and bearings, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe and solder.

4/ Includes ammunition primers, pigments, and plastics.

5/ Includes adhesives, rubber and textiles.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Country	1996		1997		
	Total p/	Fourth quarter	January	February	Jan.-Feb.
Ore and concentrate:					
Bolivia	222	99	--	--	--
China	473	37	80	60	140
Other	310 r/	57	9	18	28
Total	1,000	193	89	78	167
Metal:					
Bolivia	153	--	--	2	2
China	13,500	4,380	1,700	979	2,680
Hong Kong	1,620	75	99	207	307
Kyrgyzstan	1,240	61	--	117	117
Mexico	1,330	164	28	103	131
Other	421	82	2	7	10
Total	18,300	4,760	1,830	1,420	3,250
Oxide:					
Belgium	1,080	366	99	96	195
Bolivia	2,480	520	373	249	622
China	7,730	1,280	894	915	1,810
Mexico	3,150	859	256	201	457
South Africa	2,860	696	--	583	583
Other	1,050	302	253	283	534
Total	18,300	4,020	1,870	2,330	4,200
Grand total	37,600	8,970	3,800	3,820	7,620
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	63	21	--	14	14

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census. Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.